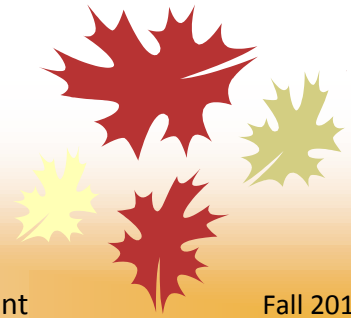




# MINNEAPOLIS Health IN THE CITY



A quarterly update from the Minneapolis Health Department

Fall 2015

## Green Business Grants help prevent 25,000 pounds of air pollution every year

Four local businesses have been awarded the City of Minneapolis' Green Business Grant this year to help prevent more than 25,000 pounds of volatile organic compound pollution and 2,500 pounds of fine particulate pollution a year. Volatile organic compounds (VOC) are commonly used in many industries, including auto body repair, general manufacturing, printing and dry cleaning. Other sources of VOCs include fossil-fuel powered cars, trucks, buses, boats and lawn mowers.

Both VOCs and fine particulates can harm human health both directly—with a range of heart and lung issues including cancer—and indirectly by contributing to ground level ozone. Ground level ozone is also known as smog, which can trigger a variety of health problems, particularly for children, elderly people, and those with lung diseases such as asthma. The completion of the grant projects will reduce the amount of industrial VOC pollution in Minneapolis by three percent—the equivalent of removing the eighth largest polluter in the city.

The following 2015 grantees already comply with all air quality laws and are making these improvements voluntarily:

- **Graco** will eliminate 8,149 pounds of VOCs in the air and 1,700 pounds of fine particulates every year, making this the largest voluntary particulate matter reduction statewide.
- **Greenheck Fan Corporation-Unison Comfort Technologies** will eliminate 3,340 pounds of VOCs in the air and 510 pounds of fine particulates every year to ensure a safer work environment for employees.
- **Central Ave Auto Body** will eliminate 357.1 pounds of VOCs in the air every year for a safer living environment for their neighbors and safer work environment for their paint technicians.
- **Smyth Printing** will eliminate 14,000 pounds of VOCs in the air every year, the largest single VOC reduction for both the City's program and the State's corresponding program.

The Green Business Matching Grant Program goes beyond regulatory requirements to work with business partners on innovative ways to protect the health of employees and Minneapolis residents, along with improving regional air quality. The City of Minneapolis invests up to one-third of the total project cost while the business invests in at least two-thirds of the cost.

Lastly, the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota has selected the Green Business Cost Sharing Program to receive a 2015 Local Government Innovation Award.

The project is among 24 diverse projects recognized for showing creativity and innovation in redesigning how they do business. All 24 awardees will be formally recognized at an awards ceremony and reception Thursday, December 10, at 4 p.m. at the Humphrey School. For more information, contact Patrick Hanlon at 612-673-5863 or

[patrick.hanlon@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:patrick.hanlon@minneapolismn.gov).

## Sharing Youth Violence Prevention Efforts for Better Results

This fall, the Minneapolis Health Department had three organizations visit to learn more about the City's youth violence prevention efforts. Staff from New Orleans Public Health, Minneapolis' sister city through the National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention, came to learn more about funding and partnership models, and participated in numerous site visits with agencies working to implement the City's youth violence prevention plan. Information sharing was also a focus for a group of emerging leaders from the Middle East and Asia in the fields of youth development and conflict resolution. At the invitation of the U.S. State Department, leaders visited the Twin Cities, one of several national locations, to meet and learn from their American peers. The Health Department shared program ideas proven to be effective in addressing youth development and youth violence issues.

In September, the Prevention Institute, a national leader on the issue of violence prevention as a public health model, provided training sessions to strengthen Minneapolis' local efforts. A training was provided to the City's Youth Violence Prevention Executive Committee, while a second training was aimed at professionals working to address youth violence. A final session was designed for the youth development/violence prevention team to assist in re-grounding the team in its public health approach. The Health Department's Youth Violence Prevention team was honored to host all three groups and looks forward to continuing these developing partnerships. For more information, contact Sasha Cotton at 612-673-2729 or

[sasha.cotton@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:sasha.cotton@minneapolismn.gov).

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## Celebrating Healthy Living Accomplishments



*Residents of MPHA's Heritage Commons at Pond's Edge conduct a walking audit in their community to identify pedestrian safety issues.*

More than 40 people from 23 organizations attended a Healthy Living luncheon in November to celebrate dozens of SHIP-funded accomplishments that have increased opportunities for Minneapolis residents to eat healthy, be active and live tobacco-free.

The program featured projects such as Hope

Communities convening Phillips Neighborhood residents to envision a healthier Franklin Avenue that resulted in a farmers market and a plan for a walking bridge over I-35W. With the help of Health Department staff, Minneapolis Public Housing Authority (MPHA) highrise residents conducted neighborhood walking audits and organized walking clubs.

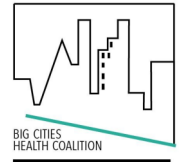
Other featured projects included:

- Ten food shelves and three meal programs now consistently offering nutritious food and fresh produce to their clients.
- The Association of Nonsmokers helped 95 rental property owners adopt smoke-free policies to reduce residents' exposure to secondhand smoke.
- Five community organizations and nine youth groups promoted the ReThink Your Drink campaign at 85 community events, encouraging people and places to choose healthier beverages.
- Four clinics serving hundreds of families with overweight children integrated weight management counseling into their services.
- Corner stores started stocking healthier foods after the City Council updated its staple foods ordinance.

In 2014-2015, the Health Department received \$1,894,444 in SHIP funding which supported these and other projects. With 2016 SHIP funding, the Health Department will continue to support Safe Routes to School projects at Minneapolis Public Schools; monitor and enforce the staple foods ordinance; fund wellness programs in clinics; and increase physical activity opportunities in Cedar Riverside, among other projects. The Health Department expects to issue competitive Requests for Proposals to recruit an organization to promote the ReThink Your Drink campaign in the East African Community and to support community-driven projects to increase smoke-free environments and/or access to healthy food and active living.

In addition, the Health Department's \$724,000 Community Wellness Grant from the Minnesota Department of Health will focus on improving clinic and community responses to diabetes prevention and hypertension management; piloting a North Minneapolis greenway; and ongoing efforts to improve food access among MPHA's highrise properties. To learn more about upcoming SHIP or Community Wellness grant initiatives, please contact Lara Pratt at 612-612-3815 or [Lara.Pratt@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Lara.Pratt@minneapolismn.gov).

## Urban Health Agenda Column: Big Cities Health Inventory goes digital



Minneapolis joins 26 other member cities of the Big Cities Health Coalition (BCHC), a project of the National Association of County and City Health Officials, to launch a new online data platform for the Big Cities Health Inventory (BCHI) report. The robust, interactive platform aggregates cities' health data to enable meaningful comparisons of health indicators at the local level. The data platform can be viewed at [bchi.bigcitieshealth.org](http://bchi.bigcitieshealth.org).

The online platform has more than 12,000 data points and allows for more frequent updating or expansion of indicators. The platform was developed as "open data," which allows users to explore prepared visualizations or create their own, as well as download entire or portions of datasets. The platform allows comparative data analysis by city, category or dataset. Health data includes injury and violence, maternal and child health, and behavioral health, among others. Breakdowns by gender and race/ethnicity are also presented, when available. Here are examples of the comparative data now available:

Minneapolis 2013 data shows large disparities in the infant mortality rates of blacks (10.4 deaths per 1,000 live births), Hispanics (6.8) and whites (4.0). These disparities are similar to those seen for Washington, D.C., Seattle, and Philadelphia in 2012 and 2013.

Minneapolis has a firearm-related mortality rate of less than 10 deaths per 100,000 population (age-adjusted, 2013-14), which is similar to Denver, Chicago and the U.S. as a whole. But these rates differ greatly from Kansas City and Detroit where the rates are as high as 20 to 40 deaths per 100,000, respectively.

To enable meaningful comparisons of health indicators, methodology and indicator definitions were aligned as much as possible. Lastly, county-level data was used in some cases where city-level data was not readily available or reliable. Cities did not present data when it was lacking or when breakdowns by gender or race/ethnicity were not possible.

The Minneapolis Health Department's Division of Research and Evaluation will continue to work with the Big Cities Health Coalition to keep improving BCHI. For more information, contact Rick Carlson at 612-673-3948 or [richard.carlson@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:richard.carlson@minneapolismn.gov).

## HEALTHY CITY UPDATES

### New funding awards:

The Health Department's School Based Clinics program was recently awarded a grant for \$102,346 per year for up to five years through a partnership with Better Together Hennepin, a Hennepin County Public Health initiative to reduce teen pregnancy. Through the grant, School Based Clinics at Henry, Roosevelt and South High Schools will continue to provide Safer Sex Intervention, a program proven to reduce teen pregnancy by employing motivational interviewing techniques with sexually active young women to build knowledge, values, confidence and skills to avoid risky sexual behavior.

### Seeking Skyway Senior Center sponsorship

Thank you to UCare for financially sponsoring the Center for the last four years. UCare is no longer able to sponsor the Center in 2016 and the Health Department is seeking additional sponsors to continue the program. As of October, 2015, Augustana stepped forward to provide limited support for Center activities. The [Skyway Senior Center](#) provides a safe, friendly, and comfortable place for people age 50 and over to gather in downtown Minneapolis to participate in a variety of activities such as physical fitness, health and wellness, learning opportunities and socialization events. The average unduplicated number of visitors per day is 75, and the estimated visits per year totals 18,556. Over 600 structured activities and programs are offered annually. Please contact Patty Bowler at 612-673-3009 or [patty.bowler@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:patty.bowler@minneapolismn.gov) if you have ideas for sponsorship.

### City participates in national Ebola emergency response review

Since the summer of 2014, the U.S. has been involved in the Ebola response on both a national and international level. Two imported Ebola cases from West Africa and two hospital-acquired cases in the U.S. spurred a massive and unprecedented public health response at all levels of government, and many non-governmental and private sector organizations. With the domestic response stabilized and the epidemic in West Africa having subsided, public health organizations including the Minneapolis Health Department were invited to Washington D.C. this past summer, to conduct an assessment of the national public health Ebola response. The Health Department's emergency preparedness manager joined others from the

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, and National Association of County and City Health Officials, among others, to identify and document successes, gaps and lessons learned from the Ebola response. Improvements in public health and healthcare coordination, administrative preparedness, screening and monitoring, transportation, and risk communications were among key topics discussed. A report of the results from the two-day gathering is expected to be available by the end of December 2015.

### New lead poisoning prevention awareness campaign tailors messaging to neighborhoods

A grant from the Minnesota Department of Health provided the first installment of a three-year public awareness campaign to help residents identify cracked lead paint as a health hazard. Campaign messages and images were voted on by two groups of Minneapolis Lead Safe Parents who live on the north and south sides of the City. To localize the message, campaign signage was tailored to particular neighborhoods by featuring lead poisoning statistics (see photo) of children in their area. Campaign messages were placed on benches in high-traffic areas and bus stops in neighborhoods with the highest rates of lead poisoning. In south Minneapolis, where there is a high density of Hispanic families with a disproportionate rate of lead poisoning, campaign signs will be in Spanish. Social media tactics are being leveraged in multiple languages through #NoLead311 and QR codes linked to videos on lead paint safety.



### Robert Wood Johnson Foundation visit

Mayor Betsy Hodges and Health Commissioner Gretchen Musicant officially welcomed the Foundation's trustees, senior staff and funded partners at a dinner October 21. In 2013, the Health Department was awarded Robert Wood Johnson's Roadmaps to Health (renamed Culture of Health) prize for outstanding community partnerships working to improve the health of Minneapolis citizens.

### Gretchen Musicant, Health Commissioner

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## STAFF UPDATES

Minneapolis Commissioner of Health **Gretchen Musicant** has been named chair-elect of the Big Cities Health Coalition, which represents a national group of 26 health departments serving large urban centers to jointly address common health and safety issues like violence prevention, tobacco use and workforce training needs. (See article in this issue for more details about the coalition.)

### Awards:

#### Living our Values Award Winners:

**Hattie Wiysel: *Quality Inspires Our Work*.** The driving force behind integrating SharePoint into the Health Department's work, Hattie has encouraged and aided staff to navigate this powerful new tool to enhance collaboration and idea sharing with colleagues.

**Margaret Schuster: *Quality Inspires Our Work*.** Using strong organizational skills, persistence, and good humor, Margaret has been the powerhouse behind ensuring the Health Department has fulfilled its criteria and met deadlines for its application for public health accreditation.

Congratulations to the Health Department's Environmental Initiatives Manager **Patrick Hanlon** who was honored with a Community Health Award for his outstanding work leading the Minneapolis Green Business Matching Grant Program to reduce air pollution.

### New Employees

Welcome to **Jean Sawyer**, a long-time City employee who has worked with 911 and the Police Department. Jean is providing human resources assistance and program support for the Healthy Start and Healthy Living teams.

**Lane Brown** has joined the Department as a Program Aide II working on a variety of projects including emergency preparedness coordination and communications support.

Welcome to two new School Based Clinics staff, **Michon McBride** and **Brandon Jones**. Michon will serve as a pediatric nurse practitioner at Edison and Henry High Schools and holds a Doctorate in Nursing and a degree in Spanish. Brandon joined the mental health team at Southwest High School, holds a Master's Degree in Community Psychology and is currently working toward licensure in marriage and family therapy.

### Departing Employees

Good luck to **Katie Lampe**, Health Inspector with the Food, Lodging and Pools program, who moved to California. Katie worked closely with Farmers Market managers and vendors; facilitated Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point team meetings; and assisted with ordinance changes and program evaluation.

### Welcome to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Public Health Associates:

**Shamis Adam** is on a two-year assignment with Healthy Start and Emergency Preparedness. She is a graduate from Carleton College with a Bachelor's degree in Biology with a concentration in neuroscience.

**Tawanda Asamaowei** will work with the School Based Clinics on a two-year assignment focused on health promotion and prevention in the areas of sexually transmitted infections and maternal and child health. Tawanda has a Master's degree in Healthcare Administration.

**Clare Conte** has joined the Food, Lodging and Pools team for one year and will then transfer to the Environmental Services team in her second year. Clare has a Master's degree in Public Health with a focus in health promotion and education.

**Audrey Wojcik** has joined the Lead and Healthy Homes team and will work with the Food, Lodging and Pools team in her second year. Audrey holds a Bachelor's degree in Health Administration and is working on a Master's degree in Public Administration with a concentration in health.